



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Deval L. Patrick
EEA Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett
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DCR Recreational Advisory: Hatch Shell Oval Closed for Restoration

Beginning this week, [The Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) (DCR) will close pedestrian access to the oval lawn area in front of the Hatch Shell. The closure is being made to assist the agency with the renovation project of the Hatch Shell Oval lawn. The project, which is a public-private partnership between DCR and The Esplanade Association (TEA), will create a healthy stand of lawn with much-needed irrigation in the Hatch Shell Oval that can better withstand high use and improve and modernize the available infrastructure for music and video performances at the Hatch Shell.

“From Free Friday Flicks and radio station concerts, zumba and yoga classes, to the annual 4th of July Celebration, The Esplanade is the premier destination for free events in the City of Boston,” said Commissioner Jack Murray. “When the restoration is complete, people who visit DCR’s Hatch Shell will see a noticeable difference in the health and quality of the lawn area.”

“The Esplanade Association is thrilled about what this project means for this historical landmark that is the heart and soul of the city,” said Esplanade Association Interim Executive Director Tani Marinovich. We would like to thank the DCR and the Commonwealth for their dedication and partnership, and all of the park users for their patience as we work to ensure the health of the soil and lawn for generations to come.”

The restoration of the 52,000 square foot area includes:

- Adding irrigation,
- Amending existing soils
- Improving subsurface drainage,
- Installation of audiovisual conduits

The estimated cost of the project is \$600,000. The Esplanade Association will provide \$500,000 in funding. The project also received a \$100,000 donation from Santander Bank. Construction has begun and will be completed in December of this year. Work in this area will occur on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. To ensure public safety, DCR has installed fencing around the oval area while the restoration is in progress. The lawn is expected to reopen in early summer of 2015, in time for Fourth of July festivities.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Jack Murray, the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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